

paying less than they would have. So, they would pay more.

Secondly, there are some businesses who don't insure at all. They'll have to pay something. There are others who insure but only for catastrophic. They will have to pay more, but they'll get much better benefits, and their rates will go up less. So, there will be some people who will pay more now than they were paying. But I believe that if we can—keep in mind, if we can stop the cost of health care from going up at 2 and 3 times the rate of inflation, if we can get it down where the rate of increase is much lower, by the end of the decade everybody will be way better off than they were.

Russia

Q. Mr. President do you approve of—Boris Yeltsin's announcement that he's going to dissolve the Parliament, and does the United States support him in his power struggle with his opponents?

The President. Well, first of all, let me say I have had only a sketchy briefing about this, and I have not talked to President Yeltsin yet. I would like to reserve the right to issue a statement after I attempt to talk to President Yeltsin. In any case, I will issue a statement before the end of the day, but I think at least I should have a direct briefing.

Yes sir, one more. Go ahead.

Health Care Reform

Q. President Clinton, tomorrow you'll be speaking before a joint session of Congress and there are 535 people, individuals, in Congress that will have their own specific plans of what they want——

The President. Yes.

Q. If you could say that you could put your name on one or two or three specific parts of this that you want to say, "This is my health care plan," that you want to see no matter what 535 other people want to see, that you feel you want to be part of your Clinton health care program, what two or three items, specifically?

The President. Number one, every American would have security in their health care system. You would be able to get health insurance, there would be adequate benefits, and you wouldn't lose them. Number two,

the system would impose a far higher level of responsibility for managing costs than it does now on all the players, including the consumers. Number three, people would keep their choice of physicians and medical providers. And number four, we would guarantee adequate access to preventive and primary care so we could stop some of the big things that are happening to us before they get going. And five, we would have market incentives to bring costs down. Those are the things that I want to be the hallmark of our program.

I wish I could stay all day. I'm sorry, but thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. Richard Strauss is the White House radio services coordinator.

Statement on the Situation in Russia

September 21, 1993

From the beginning of my administration, I have given my full backing to the historic process of political and economic reform now underway in Russia. I remain convinced that democratic reforms and the transition to a market economy hold the best hope for a better future for the people of Russia.

The actions announced today by President Yeltsin in his address to the Russian people underscore the complexity of the reform process that he is leading. There is no question that President Yeltsin acted in response to a constitutional crisis that had reached a critical impasse and had paralyzed the political process.

As the democratically elected leader of Russia, President Yeltsin has chosen to allow the people of Russia themselves to resolve this impasse. I believe that the path to elections for a new legislature is ultimately consistent with the democratic and reform course that he has charted.

I called President Yeltsin this afternoon to seek assurances that the difficult choices that he faces will be made in a way that ensures peace, stability, and an open political process this autumn. He told me that it is of the utmost importance that the elections he has

called be organized and held on a democratic and free basis.

In a democracy, the people should finally decide the issues that are at the heart of political and social debate. President Yeltsin has made this choice, and I support him fully. I have confidence in the abiding wisdom of the Russian people to make the right decision regarding their own future.

Proclamation 6594—National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 1993

September 21, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's historically Black colleges and universities have long been a beacon of hope, a door to advancement, and a source of pride for African Americans. Founded upon a commitment to equal opportunity and academic excellence, these distinguished institutions have enabled thousands of people to receive a quality education and to pursue distinguished careers in fields such as education, law, medicine, business, the arts, engineering, and the military.

Historically Black colleges and universities once offered African Americans their best, and often only, opportunities for higher education. Fortunately, the courts have now struck down legal barriers that forced the creation of separate schools for African Americans. Yet historically Black colleges and universities continue to play a vital role by adding to the diversity and caliber of the Nation's higher education system. Furthermore, these institutions remind all Americans of our obligation to uphold the principles of justice and equality enshrined in our Constitution.

By an Executive order issued on April 28, 1989, the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities was established to advise the President and the Secretary of Education on strengthening these valued institutions. The Executive order directed Federal agencies to devise ways to increase the ability of historically

Black colleges and universities to participate in Federally funded programs. It also underscored the importance of increasing private sector support for these schools through such devices and activities as matching funds programs, management assistance, technical development, and curriculum planning.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and in recognition of the rich heritage and prominent role in our country of historically Black colleges and universities, and of the many contributions these institutions and their graduates have made to our society, do hereby proclaim the period beginning September 19, 1993, and ending September 25, 1993, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities as an expression of their support for these important educational institutions.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:49 p.m., September 22, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 24.

Proclamation 6595—National Farm Safety and Health Week, 1993

September 21, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The men and women who toil in America's agricultural sector endure many challenges and hardships in bringing to market their diverse and high quality foods and grains. This dedication to efficient production contrib-